



CN RAILVETS OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA E2

Feb. 2021 Volume 11 Issue 1

From the Presidents' Desk: The Holidays were very quiet at Chez Woods but enjoyable with good food and board games. The wine didn't hurt either 😊. I hope all of you had as pleasant a time as possible. I was prepared for the usual cold snap between Christmas and New Year (that didn't really happen though) and enjoyed the pleasant weather in January. Shoveling snow is not one of my favorite workout routines but Mother Nature doesn't always respect my ideas. You know you get too much snow when you get excited about a new snow shovel! There's some saying about the good outweighing the bad but I'm starting to think snow is just bad; lazy floating flakes are pretty and lovely to walk in but they accumulate into giant mounds then blow around to form nasty drifts that snarl roads and sidewalks. No good there, right? Any partial melting simply causes sidewalks to turn into slip 'n slides and hopefully not broken hips or wrists. As usual, the weather has been bouncing around but I'm starting to crave dirt under my fingernails. So, thanks to grow lights and hot mats, I've seeded some tomatoes and peppers just to 'garden' a bit. Now to see if they'll actually grow into anything that resembles food! Please take note of the information regarding the shingles vaccine, as this is one nasty illness that can be prevented or have lessened effects if one is vaccinated. I hope all of you are anxiously awaiting your poke with the COVID vaccine – or maybe you've already received it. I've adapted well to masks, hand washing and/or sanitizer but I believe the vaccine will provide additional safety that might lead the way back to pre-epidemic situations sooner rather than later. I hope you enjoy the COVID ramblings and jokes we've sprinkled throughout the newsletter. More smiling and laughing is needed in these somber times – right? Stay safe, wear a mask when in contact with others, wash/sanitize your hands often and try to maintain your sense of humour. This too shall pass. In advance, Happy Easter to all. 'See' you in June!

Comments? Complaints? Suggestions? Just want to say hi?
Sincerely, Judy Woods, President E2

UPCOMING EVENTS

No Dates Scheduled

Occasionally the Kerby is open (whenever restrictions allow) and does allow meetings at those times. But, for now we are still not willing to put any attending members' health at risk. We're all pensioners, so it's not as if we would gain a turn!

EXECUTIVE

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Alan G. White

It is with profound sadness that I announce the passing of Al White on January 20, 2021 at the age of 94. Al was one of our monthly meeting 'regulars' and his presence will be missed. Many of us worked with or knew of Al so were aware of his dry wit and sense of humor plus that 'Dad-stare' (the one you knew he didn't believe a word you said, even if it was true). J

I worked with Al for maybe two years (if you can call seeing him at the end of my night shift as he was coming in on days 'worked with'), before he retired. More of my time with Al was spent being fellow retirees, I always enjoyed his presence and our conversations at our meetings, he kept those on the level and was always engaged, plus he had that sly sense of humour. I don't think he ever missed a meeting, and a few times he was the only person who showed up as we cancelled the meeting because of very inclement weather, figuring who in their right mind would show up, but he did, taking transit and walking! RIP Al, B

I asked my Doctor today how long he thinks this COVID thing will last. He responded with: "How should I know? I'm a doctor, not a politician".

All meetings are currently on hold.

NEXT MEETING: to be determined in room 208

on the first Monday of the month except September when it is the 2nd Monday. No meetings July or August.

MEETING LOCATION: Room 208, Kerby Centre, 1133-7 Avenue SW (403-705-3248) **TIME:**13:00.

The Membership of E2 welcomes our New Members

- Peter Madryga
-Len Tom

Happy Birthday wishes to:

Bertha Esplen, July 26/21 95 years young (Thank you for the note providing this important information)

To anyone else that had a birthday during this pandemic, you're doing a good job keeping yourself healthy, so keep up the good work!

Anniversary congratulations to:

If you have an upcoming anniversary that you would like to see here, please inform us. We do not have access to your birth or anniversary dates!

Obituaries: The Membership of E2 extends their sincerest sympathies to the family and friends of:

- Mary Thornton Jan 18/21 -90 years
- Al White Jan 20/21 – 94 years

Insurance Rant, As Usual

Late last year, I received a memo from my Insurance company stating as we're all doing less driving (one member I talked to filled up the vehicle in March and then in September!), they were sending out a rebate on our auto insurance in the new year, I'm still waiting, and you? I recently caught a TV news interview with a C.P.S. officer who stated their stats indicate the vehicle accident rate is down 40% in 2020. Also, in talking to a former workmate Jack who resides in B.C, ICBC has indicated that it will be reducing their rates 25% on account of less driving by the general public. The Insurance industry is good at media coverage talking up reduced rates so, where are they?

Observations of this pandemic

The term, 'hard pants' is anything that is not sweatpants, leggings or pajamas.

The response of "that's a really good question" by a medical expert when replying to that question with a really good answer is NOT applicable to politicians.

I think I can name every Provinces' Chief Medical Officer, and all the premiers too.

I sure am getting my monies worth on print media and cable.

They say our food costs have gone up maybe 4-8%, I think my waist size has grown about that.

We, as a society, are getting out walking and doing more outdoor activities, and thanks to our local city in meeting the demand and maintaining these outdoor facilities.

All published CNPA newsletters can be read at cnpensioners.org.

Membership Advantages Many of our fellow CN pensioners are still not contributing members of the CNPA. The Scholarship Committee will deny any applications sent by non-contributing members children or grandchildren. **Only** contributing members receive the annual CN calendar, delivered to your home – for only \$1/month. They recently added an association with a travel discount company, Colette Travel plus the opportunity to join the CNPA Blue Cross plan when you initially retire. Be a promoter of the CNPA and encourage any non-members you know to call Brian Woods 403-280-9107 where, for that mere \$1/month (by PRD), they will become members. Also, they'll receive a copy of this wonderful newsletter! **Please Note:** Membership for a Spouse or survivor is **not automatic**, but they are invited to attend meetings (no voting unless in good standing - paying that is) and special events. **Social memberships** are also available (\$10 paid to us annually), this entitles the member to attend all functions of the local, and vote on local, non-CNPA, matters. Matters of the CNPA may only be voted on by the Pensioner or the surviving spouse per the constitution.

New incentive to join – There is currently an offer of a two-year FREE membership so let's chat up anyone about to retire!

CN Pensioners' Help Line answers *all* questions regarding your pension or rail pass. It's also where you report any changes (addresses, power of attorney, etc.) also the death of any Pensioner. *Have the pensioners' PIN (SRB) ready!* **Call Morneau Shepell at 1-800-361-0739, toll free.** If in doubt please call Brian Woods, 403-280-9107, for clarification of some (not all) of your questions.

November Elections - Upcoming Elections 2021

Directors: 2 for this year and one for 2022; Alternate Director: 1 for this year; Health Care Representative: 2 for this year; Pension Committee Representatives: 1 for this year and one coming up for 2022. If these positions actually come to a vote, we will contact the regular meeting attendees by phone and perhaps email for those with that option. This time lag should give everyone a chance to evaluate various positions to put your talents to work for our great organization. I'm sure the longer-standing volunteers would appreciate someone else standing up.

Shingles Vaccine

I contacted 2 bigger pharmacies and the costs are \$152 at Costco and \$182 at Shoppers, this is for 2 shots. I also inquired at Blue Cross, and depending on your individual plans' coverage, they will cover those costs, but do inquire first. Blue Cross 1-866-660-7670 or blueadvantage.ca B

HOW DO YOU GET THIS NEWSLETTER?

1. by **Canada Post** (most expensive, our least desirable),
2. by accessing it yourself on **cnpensioners.org**,
3. by receiving it directly in your **email** in-basket from our local council (best choice for us). Please advise Brian Woods at 403-280-9107 or woodsbi@nucleus.com if this option works for you.

It's called quarantine coffee. It's just like normal coffee but it has margarita in it and also no coffee.



**NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE THE FOLLOWING TIMES:
February, June and October**

The official sports drink when I was a kid...



CNPA Scholarship Program 2021

This on-line ONLY program is a go for 2021, applications open on April 15, 2021 and close on the August 15, 2021 deadline. See cnpensioners.org for complete rules and the application form.

CN Tower Edmonton

Does anyone have a spare \$10? You could own the CN tower in Edmonton. There is a small catch in that you would also have to take on the \$65 Million in debt. The building was sold to a Vancouver company, Trez CN Tower Holdings Ltd. in October 2020.

CN's Quarterly Review

For those that care or are just casually interested, reviews are always available on the Company's website at www.cn.ca/financial-results.

FEBRUARY 2021 UPDATE – For the tenth consecutive month, CN has set a new monthly record with 2.74 MMT of Western Canadian grain moved through December via carload, versus the previous record of 2.50 MMT set in 2018; • Additionally, CN remains on record pace for containerized grain movement from Western Canada alone, with roughly 500,000 metric tonnes moved to date directly from Western Canada between August and December; • As of the end of December, CN has received 1,000 new high-capacity hopper cars of the 1,500 cars announced for acquisition over the course of the 2020–2021 crop year.



Electronic Deposits

National Treasurer, Bruce Peacock, has initiated discussion regarding the use of Electronic Transfer of Funds (EFT) for our Partnership Money (rebate) instead of sending cheques via Royal Mail. I will be voting for the EFT method of receiving our rebates to make the bookkeeping more efficient for the current and future Treasurers. J

Blue Cross Reminder

Deadline for claims submission is April 30, 2021 so collect all your receipts and any other necessary documents and get them in the mail asap.

CNPA MRRC – Zoom Call of February 25, 2021

By unanimous decision, MRRC will move to Electronic Funds Transfer (I have mailed Bruce Peacock a voided blank cheque to enable setup). We have added another member to the Scholarship team, Mike Enghart from Comox (I believe). Alex Hui, National Newsletter Rep, is looking for personal interest stories for publishing in that newsletter so you can pass along 'your story' to Brian and I and we'll forward them to Alex. Start jotting down your memories 😊! Sadly, it was announced that the universal Pharmacare Bill is now dead in Parliament in spite of all the effort put forward by our National Representatives. Express your displeasure to your local Member of Parliament. In lieu of elections, National and Regional, it was agreed to that everyone would take a 1-year extension. Locally, we have all opted to stay on.



How the CN Railroaders in the Community Works

No limit to the number of charities with which you may volunteer. The criteria to qualify for a reward now applies equally to employees, their family members, pensioners and their spouses/surviving spouses.

CN supports volunteer efforts by providing charitable donations to the organizations where CN railroaders volunteer. As the RRITC program ends December 31st and restarts January 1st annually, all awards are reset. Therefore, any volunteer hours for the current year should be entered into Spark in that year in order for the bonus to be paid out in January/February. ***In order to qualify for the bonus \$100 for your charity, the minimum volunteer time is just one hour.*** Thanks to our new digital platform, you can now easily track your volunteer hours and see when the donation to your charity was made. Normal volunteer rewards are transferred electronically to the eligible organizations on a monthly basis. Check out the exciting new features of the Railroaders in the Community program on the website at: <https://cn.benevity.org> To login: Username: your CN PIN number. Password: the first three letters of your first name + the first three letters of your last name + the 4 digits of the year you were hired at CN. Example: The password for Jane Smith, hired in 1999, would be: jansmi1999!! Note: Once logged in, you may change your email address to a personal email and personalize your password. The surviving spouses of pensioners should contact railroadersinthecommunity@cn.ca for assistance with the login.



So glad this is a guy thing 😊 J

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Out and about on daytrips



Traffic Jam Kananaskis Park November 2020



Wayne AB, population at its heyday 2,490, today 29 February 2021



Wayne AB – Rosedeer Hotel taken from former railbed, Drumheller Subdivision. February 2021



Rosebud AB February 2021



Badlands - Horseshoe Canyon February 2021

6-E3 Edmonton

In Memorium

Tullio Barilla Machine Operator - Calder
Janet Barker Widow of Ernie, Conductor, Jasper
George Boos Track Maintenance Foreman
Jerry Brzak Track Maintenance Foreman, Sylvan Lake
Albert Cairns Pipefitter, Calder
Bernice Carter
Alfred C Ciciarelli Conductor, Edmonton
Francesco Degregorio Electrician Calder
Richard Deines Conductor Walker Yard
Therese Duffy Widow of Kevin, Car Management, Edmonton
Wesley Edlin Locomotive Engineer, Calgary
Ridley Edwards Heavy Duty Mechanic Walker
Joyce M Fesciuc Widow of Gordon, Brakeman
Sidney Gautier Customer Service Supvr.
Gerald Gristwood Conductor
Doris E Guthrie Regional Pass Clerk, Edmonton
Allan C Hartley Signal Supervisor
Kathren Hartley Claims Inspector
Audrey M. Hayes Widow of Rex, Manager Jasper Park Lodge
Winnifred Heyworth Cook
Joan Jirsch Widow of Baggage Checker
Karen Johnson Widow of Operations Admin
Vladimir Jovicic
Anny Junemann Locomotive Engineer
Patrick J Keleher Engineering Budget Assistant
Gene A Kirsch
Didame Klem Locomotive Engineer
Bruce Larsen
Ronald E Livingstone Locomotive Engineer Edmonton
Caroline Maksymiuk Widow of Dick, Express Fleet Disp.
Edmonton
Sam Martyschuk
Theodore Majcher General Welding Supervisor, Edmonton
Myrtle Maskell Widow of Martin, Constr. Engr. Edmonton
Elaine Mekechuk Widow of John, Geotechnical Engineer
Walter Melnychuk Operator, Edmonton
William Mitchell Car Foreman, Edmonton
Steve Myszchuk Truck Driver - Diesel Shop
Orest Pruss
Rejeanne Riopel Widow of Alphonse, Carman Helper
Cecil Sakousky Carman
Donald Sarvage Administrative Officer, Engineering, Edmonton
Mary Schmidt Locomotive Engineer
Betty Sherriff Widow of Bob, Conductor, Jasper
Allen Shulha District Marketing Officer, Edmonton
William D. Smilski Locomotive Engineer
Donald Spriggs Reg. Manager Purchases & Materials
Alice C Sorenson Widow of Hartley, Passenger Conductor
Anthony Stark Machinist
Anita Steele Widow of Doug, Loc Engr Edmonton
Phyllis Stout
Luigi Tassone Equipment, Jasper
Peter Tchir Conductor, Edmonton

We send our sympathies on news of the deaths of the following members' spouses Mary Rose Cardinal Wife of Daniel, Conductor. Edmonton Tammy Irwin Wife of Clare, Regional Counsel. Edmonton

Milestones

Birthdays

85 Years Old

Zinnia Lischuk Sep 1	Lillian Yakiwchuk Sep 2
Mary Derksen Sep 4	Mavis Gamble Sep 7
Vincent A. Desjardins Sep 11	Iris Bennett Sep 17
Frank Benko Sep 24	Julie Charters Sep 27
Ray L. Golden Oct 6	Emelia Heeks Oct 13
Alice R. Arsenault Oct 17	Brigid Desjarlais Oct 19
John E. Hansen Nov 5	Carol Ann Zahara Nov 9
Robert Ewers Nov 15	Lyll C. Kortzman Nov 18
Robert K. MacDonald Nov 19	John O. Stokalko Nov 19
John (Jack) McLeod Nov 21	Ida Osadchuk Dec 7
Irene Hook Dec 22	Benito Leggio Dec 28
Sheila Horodyski Dec 29	

90 Years Old

Reuben A. Mastre Sep 3	Ida Dumont Sep 19
Bernadette Brown Sep 28	Donald Campbell Oct 11
Henry Monsebroten Oct 19	Margaret Rose Oct 21
Olga Trachuk Oct 21	Estelle Marshall Oct 28 Denis
T. McGettigan Nov 1	Mike Basok Nov 6
Lawrence E. Edgarson Nov 15	Walter Zaplitny Nov 16 Alyce
Wooldridge Nov 17	Alice Goebel Nov 22
Elsie Mather Dec 10	Mary McManus Dec 10 Irene
Bezruki Dec 21	

95 Years Old

Maria Andrzejewski Sep 21	Ollie Rosnyk Sep 24
Hilda M. Tomlinson Oct 5	Ethel Lang Oct 14
George Storm Dec 6	Jack Inkpen Dec 8
Bronie E. Lozinski Dec 9	Aileen R. Moore Dec 15

Anniversaries

50 Years

Jerome W. & Olga Nahayowski Sep 5
Reg & Eveline E. Crane Oct 10
Edward C. & Marion Lavallee Oct 17
Abdul & Akaber Sleiman Nov 1
Linda & Michael Simpson Nov 7
William & Marilyn Tomlinson Nov 13
Lillian L. & John Hawreschuk Dec 11

60 Years Married

Bruce & Pauline McBain Sep 17
Robert & Donna McMillan Sep 17
Robert & Margaret Gauvin Oct 14
Jerry R & Elsie Belziuk Oct 15
Paul & Joyce Majnarich Dec 10
Jose & Eulalia Anastacio Dec 18
Earl D. & Beverly Smith Dec 28

70 Years Married

Peter D. & Doreen Belland Sep 2
Gunter & Edna Bruckmann Sep 30
Brian & Margie Douziech Oct 6
John & Nellie Maas Dec 6